THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI). (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that on 8th July 1985 a Cashier of the Railways had come to withdraw a sum of Rs. 35 lakhs against 7 cheques. He collected the payment against six cheques and stacked the bundles in a number of boxes brought by him. When he was about to encash the seventh cheque, he observed that one of the boxes wag missing. The missng box reportedly contained a sura of Rs. 6.7 lakhs. The bank raised an emergency alarm and the doors of the banking hall were closed as per prescribed procedure. The police was informed and is seized of the matter. The stolen amount has not yet been recovered.

Production of Steel

92. SHRi K. VASUDEVA PANTCKER. Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production and require ment of steel in the country' during the last two years, year-wise;

(b) whether the production of steel at present is sufficient to meet the domestic demand; and

(c) if nots what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by Government to attain, self-sufncency in steel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) The assessed requirements of steel during 1983-84 and 1984-85 were 9.92 and 9.01 million tonnes respectively. Domestic production from integrated st~el plants, ministeel plants and othe-s during these two years -was 8.42 and 8.77 million tonnes respectively.

(b) For the year 1985-86, the working Group on Iron and Steel has projected a demand of 11.354 millio$_n$ tonnes of finished steel in the country against an indigenous availability of 9.9 million tonnes.

(c) Efforts are being made to attain self-sufficiency by increasing domestic production of steel through belter capacity utilisation, Modernis^tion|technoloaical up. gradation of the existing steel plants, expansion of existing steel plants/setting up' of new steel making capacity and by changing the product-mix to better match; the demand of consumers.

New Textile Policy

93. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANI-CKER. Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new textile policy announced by Government proposes to undertake mass scale modernisation of textile mills in the country;

(b) if so, whether the modernisation programme would render large number of textile workers jobless; and

(c) if so, what steps are proposed *to* be taken by Government to protect the interest of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH), (a) ^he new Textile Policy contains various guidelines regarding measures to facilitate the modernisation of the textile industry. The Policy envisages setting up of a national Level Standing Advisory Committee for indentifying on continuous basis, the needs of modernisation an,j the type of modernisation that the industry should adopt.

(b) and (C) It is possible that as a result ctf modernisation, unit-specific displacement of labour may occur but the general level of employment in &e textile industry is not expected to decline on account ,3f measures indicated in the Textile Policy including the lifting of ban on creation of fresh capacities and expansion in existing capacities.

Minimum Export Price of Lower Grade Tea

94. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANTCKER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) what was the minimum export price of lowe- grade tea during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85, year-wise;

(b) whel'her the minimum export price 5iave recently been revised by Government;